

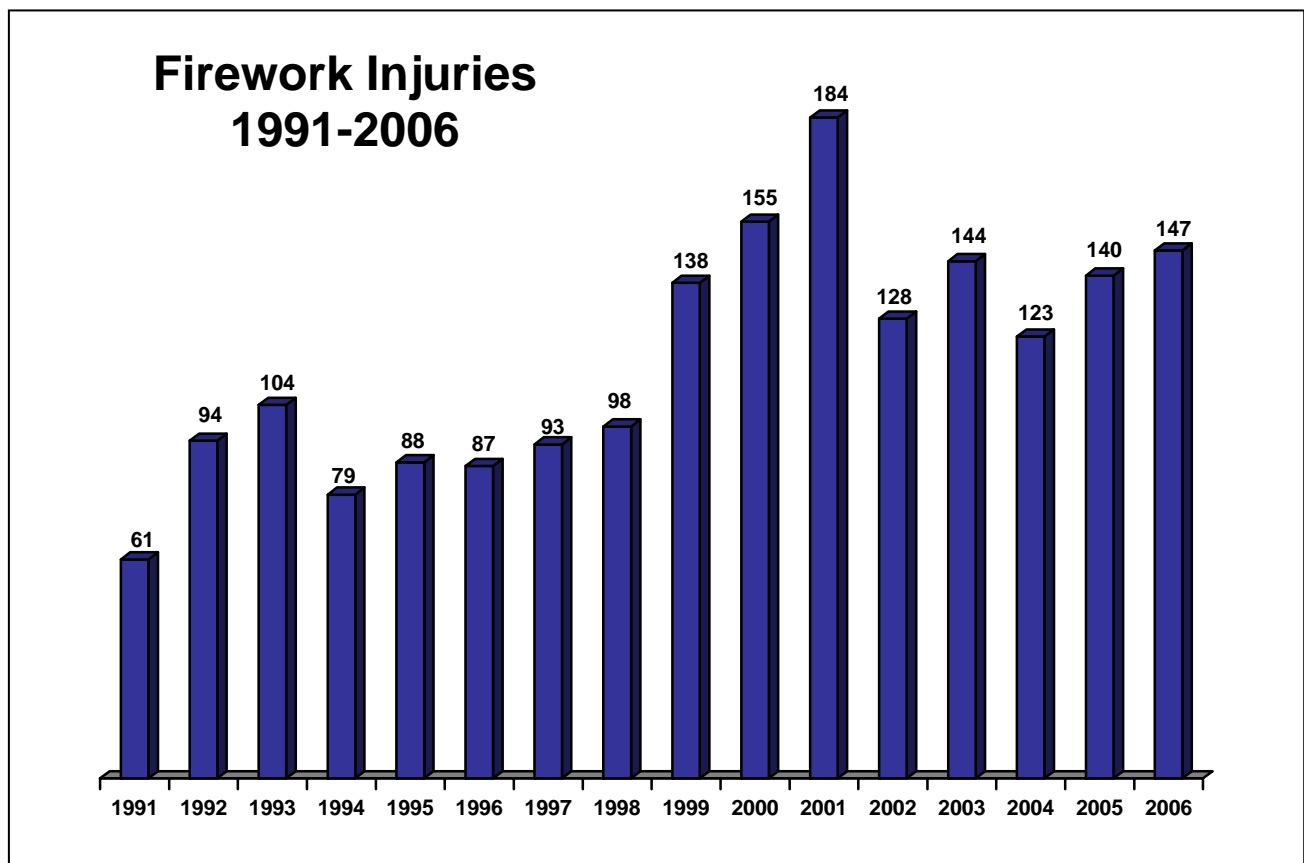


## Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office 2006 Firework Injuries and Fires

Another increase in reported firework injuries occurred this year with 147 injuries reported by Nebraska hospitals. Eighty-five percent of the injuries occurred between July 1 and 5, with half of those happening on July 4. The safest time of day was between 4 AM and Noon when no injuries occurred. Of the 126 injuries with reported times, all but 4 occurred between noon and midnight. This year Lincoln experienced the most injuries with 28, followed by Omaha with 20.

The majority of injuries (48) were second-degree burns. First-degree burns followed with 23 and abrasions with 20. People suffering partial sight loss rose from 4 in 2005 to 11 in 2006. Most injuries continue to involve eyes (43), hands (24) fingers (21), and head/face (20) as the most commonly injured areas of the body.

The following graph shows the number of injuries for the last 16 years. The 1999 total includes nine injuries that occurred during the millennium firework season.

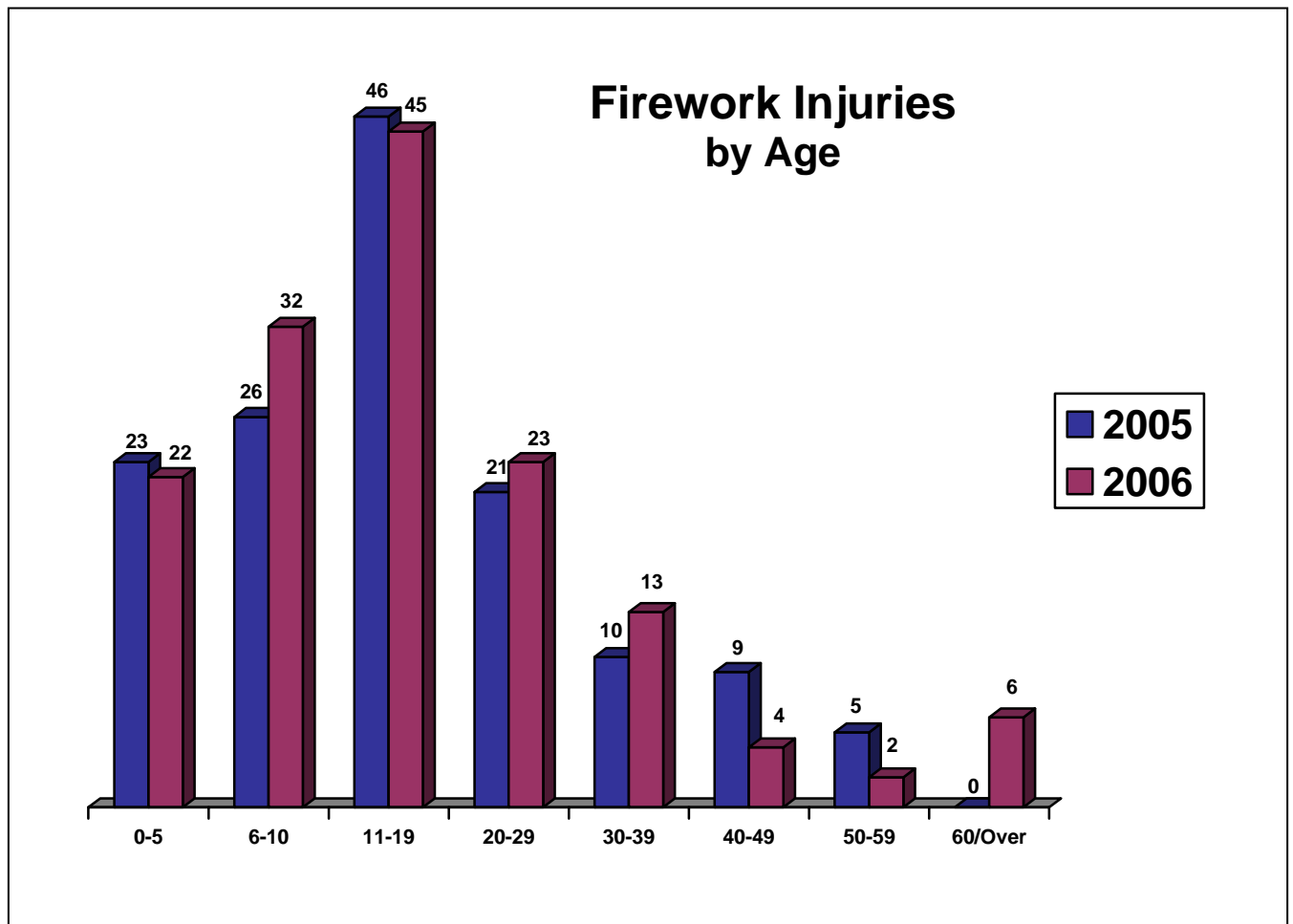


The majority of people injured were either in the vicinity of the firework when it went off or holding the device when it discharged. The number of people injured at public displays increased from 3 in 2005 to 4 in 2006. Public displays are the safest way to view fireworks.

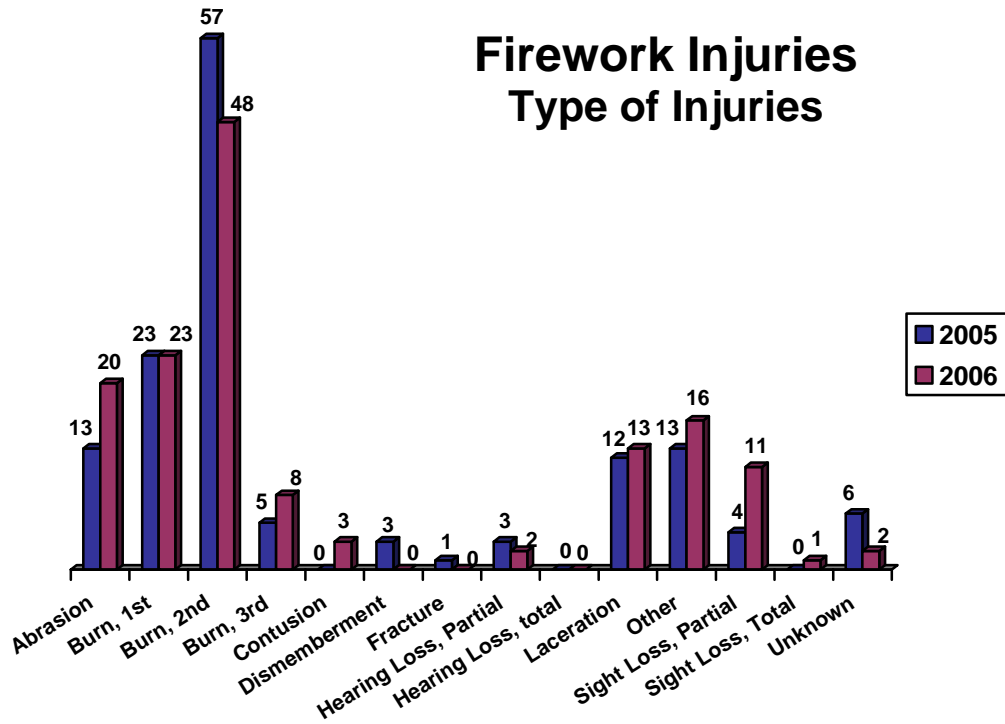
Firecrackers and sparklers caused the most injuries where a device was known. The number of injuries from illegal fireworks (M-80's; cherry bombs; bottle, sky and missile rockets) decreased slightly from 24 in 2005 to 21 in 2006.

DEVICE	2005	2006	DEVICE	2005	2006
Base Fountain	3	5	Other	21	23
Bottle Rocket	5	12	Parachute	2	1
Cherry Bomb	0	0	Party Popper	0	1
Cone Fountain	2	2	Punk	5	7
Firecracker	22	24	Roman Candle	11	9
Ground Spinner	2	4	Sky Rocket	6	7
Handle Fountain	3	0	Smoke Bomb	8	11
Homemade	1	2	Sparkler	18	14
M-80's	0	0	Unknown	18	23
Missile Rocket	6	2	Wheel	0	0

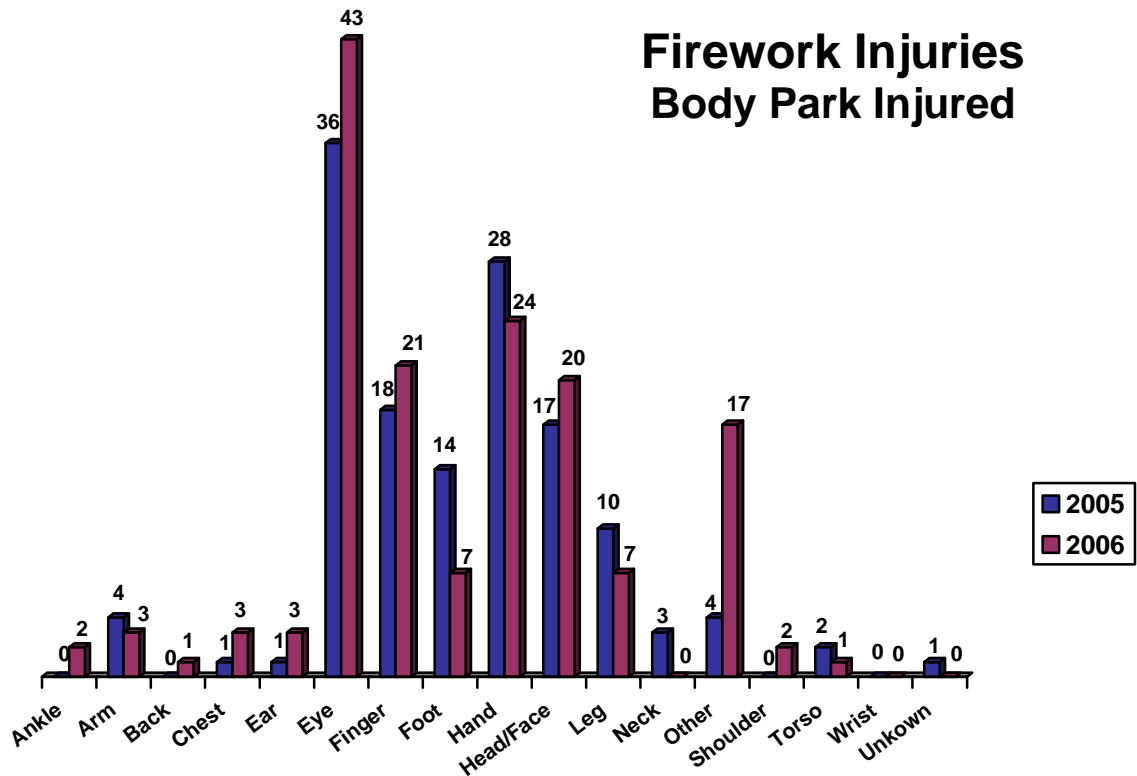
Over two-thirds of the reported injuries occurred to children and young adults (age 19 and under). More injuries involve males (96) than females (48). The gender was not indicated for three injured people.



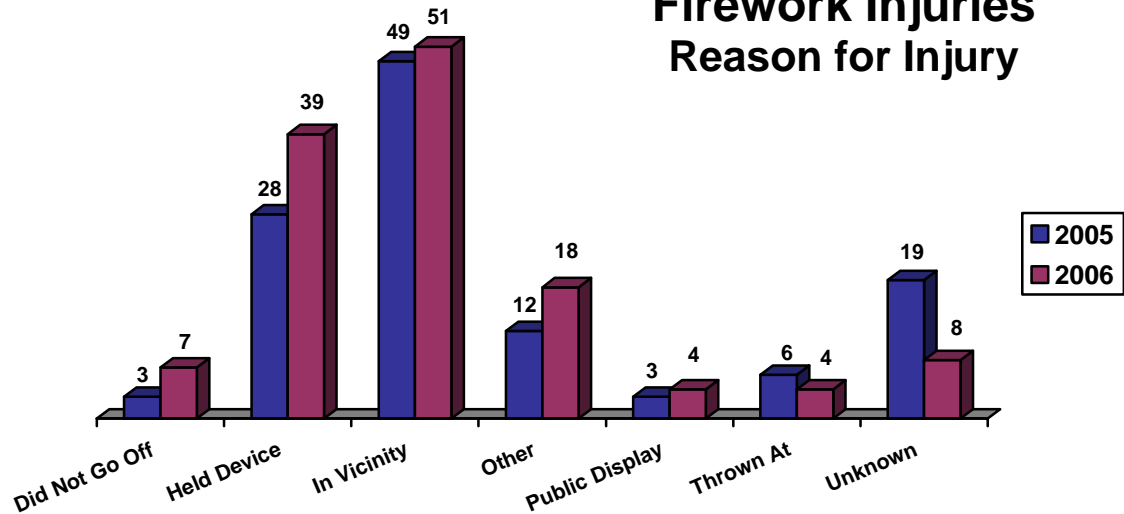
## Firework Injuries Type of Injuries



## Firework Injuries Body Part Injured



## Firework Injuries Reason for Injury



Some reasons given for the injuries are:

- Base fountain toppled over
- Black cat exploded in hand
- Child picked up smoke bomb and burned thumb
- Child was barefooted and stepped on sparkler
- Roman candle operated correctly at first, then started to discharge display in an erratic fashion (not straight up in the air). Patient was taking cover when flaming ball struck patient's eye.
- Fire started by firework device that patient attempted to put out with feet.
- Patient (0-5 years of age) lit firework, ran away and then went back. It exploded in the patient's eyes.
- Holding box of 10 sparklers, removed one to light which ignited the entire box.
- Firecracker put in beer bottle and it exploded bottle
- Patient holding mortar just before dropping it in the launching tube. Just after lighting the fuse the mortar burst on fire but did not explode.
- Patient lit a roman candle and it slipped out of his hand and went off projectiling into his forehead.
- Patient was getting the powder from devices, collectively about 1.5 ounces. Sparks from surrounding activity caused flash of powder.
- Put 3 Black Cats in beer bottle, lit and bottle exploded. Glass on street cut patient's heel as no shoes were being worn
- Patient in vicinity of bottle rocket attached to race car. Car tipped over and rocket went off striking patient in upper abdomen and forearm.
- Patient received burns to hand due to holding artillery shell while lighting firework.
- Wind blew firework back at hand.
- Patient held firecracker to light it. The fuse burned quickly and the patient was unable to throw it away fast enough. Patient also burned leg with punk using to light firecracker.
- Patient holding artillery shell in lap and smoking cigarette. Ashes dropped on device igniting it

## FIREWORK INJURIES AND WHERE THEY OCCURRED

CITY		COUNTY	
Name	Number	Name	Number
Adams	1	Adams	4
Ainsworth	1	Box Butte	3
Aliance	3	Brown	1
Alma	1	Buffalo	3
Bassett	1	Cass	1
Beatrice	4	Cedar	2
Bellevue	1	Cherry	1
Bradshaw	1	Colfax	2
Central City	1	Dawes	1
Chadron	1	Dawson	2
Columbus	2	Dodge	5
Elkhorn	4	Douglas	26
Falls City	2	Furnas	1
Foster	1	Gage	5
Fremont	5	Gosper	1
Friend	1	Harlan	1
Gothenburg	1	Johnson	1
Grand Island	6	Lancaster	29
Hastings	4	Lincoln	8
Henderson	1	Madison	5
Holbrook	1	Merrick	1
Holmes	1	Otoe	2
Kearney	3	Pierce	1
Lexington	1	Platte	2
Lincoln	28	Red Willow	9
Macy	2	Richardson	2
McCook	9	Rock	1
Mead	1	Saline	1
Nebraska City	2	Sarpy	1
Newman Grove	1	Saunders	2
Norfolk	4	Scotts Bluff	3
North Platte	8	Seward	3
Omaha	20	Stanton	1
Plattsmouth	1	Thurston	6
Randolph	2	York	2
Roca	1	Unknown	1
Saunders Co	1		
Schuyler	2		
Scottsbluff	3		
Seward	2		
Smithfield	1		
Stanton	1		
Staplehurst	1		
Tecumseh	1		
Valentine	1		
Valley	2		
Winnebago	4		
Unknown	1		